

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
Executive Council

COLIN VAN OSTERN
EXECUTIVE COUNCILOR
DISTRICT TWO



STATE HOUSE ROOM 207
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CONCORD, NH 03301
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October 8, 2014

Friends,

Last week's Governor & Council meeting was held at the NH Food Bank in Manchester, and saw significant discussion of several appointments by Governor Hassan. The Council voted unanimously to confirm two Superior Court and one Circuit Court judges, and Governor Hassan chose not to bring previously-nominated individuals up for a vote for two positions on the newly-reformed Site Evaluation Committee for new state energy projects.

Finally, the Council agreed to delay a final confirmation vote on Liquor Commission Director of Marketing & Warehousing Rick Gerrish. In this case, a number of Liquor employees had voiced concerns that several jobs reporting up into Director Gerrish had recently been re-scoped to require a bachelor's degree for new applicants (and specifically excluded the option of substitution professional experience) but Director Gerrish himself did not hold these same academic credentials. I worked with the State Division of Personnel to revise the job requirements to ensure better consistency across the Division so professional experience and academic credentials can both be taken into account. I also suggested the position either be voted on at our next meeting or tabled until after the holiday season, as that is by far the busiest time of year for the Liquor Commission and I have concerns about changing senior leadership in the middle of this rush time.

The Council also voted to approve:

IN CENTRAL NH: A new contract for dental insurance for state employees from Delta Dental in Concord; statewide surplus distribution of Emergency Food Assistance to pantries and soup kitchens by the Merrimack-Belknap Community Action Plan; the nomination of Captain Jillian Murray-Duchesne of Salisbury for the rank of Major in the NH Army National Guard; a contract for a new fence for a recreational area at the state hospital's Acute Psychiatric Services building; and purchase of snow removal equipment for the Concord airport.

IN MONADNOCK & WESTERN NH: Expanding a home health aide project to cover the town of Franconia, and a home-delivered meals project to include Jaffrey and Nelson.

IN STRAFFORD CO: Accept \$1.5 million in federal funds to support improvements to the NH Northcoast rail line from Rochester to Ossipee, to upgrade track grades and allow more freight to travel to an expanded list of markets.

STATEWIDE: Approved 3-1 a loan and loan guarantee to 3S Contemporary Artspace in Portsmouth, with Councilor Sununu abstaining. I voted against as I have concerns that the loan guarantees do not provide the appropriate safeguards for collateral, and due to some outstanding questions about the sources & uses of funds in the project.

Additionally, the Council: extended an agreement with Easter Deals to ensure community-based services for veterans, service members, and military families; a grant for new HVAC equipment at the Manchester airport; \$910k in federal fisheries disaster relief from 2012; a statewide automated victims' information and notification program; a new contract for auctioning off state surplus equipment; and accept federal funds for warehousing of USDA commodity foods for emergency aid.

APPOINTMENTS: In addition to the nominations mentioned above, there was a full list of nominees and confirmations for other roles – see full list below.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, October 15, back in Concord. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know via email at cvanostern@nh.gov or by calling me at (603) 290-5848.

Sincerely,
Colin
Executive Councilor, District 2

[FULL 10/1 AGENDA](#)

(or follow the links below for documentation of each item)

FULL INFORMATION

1. DETAIL: CENTRAL NH

Authorized the nomination of Captain Jillian M. Murray-Duchesne, Salisbury, NH, for promotion to the rank of Major, NH Army National Guard. This officer meets all prerequisites for this grade, having been found to be physically, mentally, and professionally qualified.

[#14D](#) Authorized to enter into an agreement with Atlantic Coast Fence Company Inc., Amesbury, MA, to install fencing for a new recreational area at the NH Hospital's Acute Psychiatric Services Building, Concord, NH, in an amount not to exceed \$33,077. (2)Further Authorized to adjust the work schedule within the completion date of the contract without G&C approval. Effective upon G&C approval through December 12, 2014. **69% General, 31% Federal Funds.**

[#24](#) Authorized the Bureau of Aeronautics to provide funding to the City of Concord, NH, to purchase snow removal equipment for the Concord Municipal Airport, Concord, NH, in the amount of \$310,175. Effective upon G&C approval through October 31, 2018. **94.74% Federal, 5.26% General Funds.**

2. DETAIL: MONADNOCK REGION

Authorized to amend an existing agreement with VNA at HCS Inc., Keene, NH, (originally approved by G&C on 6-18-14, item #110), to provide In Home Care, In Home Health Aide Level of Care and Adult Day Program Services, by modifying the geographic area served with no change to the total price of \$1,008,761. (2)Further Authorized to amend an existing agreement with VNA at HCS Inc., Keene, NH (originally approved by G&C on 6-18-14, item #109), to provide Home Delivered and Congregate Meals and Transportation Services, by modifying the geographic area served with no change in the total price of \$650,886.80. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2015. **51% Federal, 49% General Funds.**

3. DETAIL: STRAFFORD COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

[#19](#) Authorized the Bureau of Rail and Transit to accept and expend \$675,000 of additional Federal Railroad Administration grant funds to support rail improvements on the NH Northcoast Railroad line in

Strafford and Carroll Counties. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2015. **Contingent upon Fiscal Committee approval on September 26, 2014.**

[#27](#) Authorized the Bureau of Rail and Transit to enter into a **retroactive** contract with the NH Northcoast Railroad Company, Ossipee, NH, for improvements on the NH Northcoast Railroad in Strafford and Carroll Counties, for an amount not to exceed \$1,550,000. Effective August 30, 2013 through January 31, 2016. **91.3% Federal, 9.7% General Funds.**

4. STATEWIDE PROJECTS AND POLICIES

Authorized to hold a Public Hearing to approve an award of a State Guarantee under RSA 162-A:13 with respect to a loan from Kennebunk Savings Bank to 3S Contemporary Artspace, Inc. located in Portsmouth, NH. Action will Authorized a Resolution under RSA 162-A:18 to determine the financing will serve a public use, provide public benefit and is within the policy and authority of the Act.

[#14](#) Authorized to enter into a **sole source** amendment to an existing agreement with Easter Seals NH Inc., Manchester, NH (originally approved by G&C on 12-20-13, item #62), for the provision of a Military Veterans Access to No Wrong Door program that includes a provision of providing and coordinating cross training to other ServiceLink Resource Centers, Civilian Providers, and Military-Veteran Providers statewide in order to ensure continuation of community based services to veterans, service members and their families, by increasing the price by \$500,000 from \$697,547 to \$1,197,547. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2015. **100% Federal Funds.**

[#25](#) Authorized the Bureau of Aeronautics to award a grant to the City of Manchester to upgrade the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system in the terminal building (Phase II) at the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport, in the amount of \$396,649.69. Effective upon G&C approval through October 31, 2018. **94.74% Federal, 5.26% General Funds.**

[#33](#) Authorized to accept and expend \$910,000 in federal funds from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the purpose of distributing federal fisheries disaster relief funds to northeast multispecies commercial harvesters impacted by the federal fisheries disaster declared by the Secretary of Commerce in 2012. **100% Federal Funds. Contingent upon Fiscal Committee approval on September 26, 2014.**

[#52](#) Authorized to amend item #24, approved by G&C on October 2, 2013, by extending the end date **retroactively** from September 30, 2014 to June 30, 2015, for the purpose of establishing a Statewide Automated Victims Information and Notification Program. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2015. (2)Further Authorized to amend the subgrant to the NH Department of Safety, in the amount of \$955,095 (originally approved by G&C on 10-2-13, item #24), by extending the end date **retroactively** from September 30, 2014 to June 30, 2015. No Additional Funding. **100% Federal Funds. Contingent upon Fiscal Committee approval on September 26, 2014.**

[#57](#) Authorized the State Surplus Distribution to enter into a service contract with James R. St. Jean Auctioneers, Epping, NH, for auctioneer services at no charge to the State of NH. The Auctioneer's revenue will be achieve with an 8% Byers fee and will reimburse the State of NH 3% of the selling price of municipal and other property. Effective upon G&C approval through September 30, 2016, with the option to extend, but not to exceed five years in total.

[#59](#) Authorized the Risk Management Unit to enter into a contract with Delta Dental Plan of NH Inc., Concord, NH, for the administration of self-funded dental coverage for the state employees and eligible dependents for a period of 36 months, in the amount of \$1,061,504. Effective January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017, with the option to renew for up to two additional years. **Approximately 34% General, 19% Federal, 3% Enterprise, 13% Highway, 2% Turnpike, and 29% Other Funds.**

[#60](#) Authorized the Surplus Distribution Section to enter into a contract with Community Action Program Belknap-Merrimack Counties Inc., Concord, NH, to coordinate and provide statewide Surplus Food Distribution for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, for a total amount not to exceed \$475,317. Effective October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2017, with the option to renew for an additional term of two years. **100% Federal Funds.**

[#61](#) Authorized the Bureau of Purchase and Property Surplus Distribution Section to accept and expend the Emergency Feeding Assistance Program funds available from the US Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$68,952 for funding the warehousing and distribution of USDA commodity foods. Effective upon G&C approval through June 30, 2015. **100% Federal Funds.**

5. DETAIL: APPOINTMENTS AND NOMINATIONS

(* = District 2 Resident)

Enhanced 911 Commission

David R. Caron, Belmont*

Cecily McNair, Epsom

Board of Fire Control

Norman W. Skantze, Swanzey

Health Exchange Advisory Board

Lisa M. Morris, Gilford

Historical Resources Council

Linda Willett, Nashua

Lakes Management Advisory Committee

Robert W. Compton, Deering

Nashua Police Commission

Robert E. Valade, Nashua

Assistant Director of the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management at the Department of Safety

Jennifer L. Harper, Concord*

Waste Management Council

Daniel P. Sweet, Kensington

Confirmed by the Council:

Circuit Court Judge

Suzanne M. Gorman, Concord, NH (resides in Goffstown)

Board of Licensure of Interpreters for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Cathy L. Minch, Newmarket, NH

Enhanced 911 Commission

Karen Mead, Bedford, NH

Board of Professional Geologists

Paul L. Rydel, Concord, NH*

Manufactured Housing Installation Standards Board

Kenneth R. Burgess, Hooksett, NH

Mechanical Licensing Board

Omer Beaudoin, Manchester, NH

Pease Development Authority

Arthur H. Nickless, Rochester, NH*

Pharmacy Board

Gary Merchant, Claremont, NH

Real Estate Commission

Daniel S. Jones, North Conway

New Hampshire Retirement System Board of Trustees

Tonya J. Angwin, Manchester, NH

Speech-Language Pathology Governing Board

Maureen W. Heckman, Gilford, NH

Superior Court Judge

Amy L. Ignatius, Concord, NH (resides in Concord)*

Andrew R. Schulman, Manchester, NH (resides in Bedford)

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